

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 /073 W
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R 051152Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1236

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 0217

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAU, ZA, UG

SUBJECT: ZAMBIA OPTS OUT OF KAMPALA OAU MEETING

1. FONMIN MWAANGA TOLD ME TODAY THAT ZAMBIA HAD DECIDED NOT RPT NOT TO BE REPRESENTED AT THE OAU MEETING OF CHIEFS OF STATE AT KAMPALA IN JUNE. HE SAID THIS WAS A UNILATERAL DECISION AND THAT ZAMBIA WOULD NOT PRESS ITS VIEWS ON THE OTHER AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS. HE DOUBTED THAT PRESIDENT NYERERE WOULD ATTEND THE MEETING, ALTHOUGH TANZANIA MIGHT SEND A DELEGATION.

2. I MENTIONED THAT PRESIDENT KAUNDA HAD TOLD CONGRESSMAN DIGGS AND ME DURING OUR CALL AT STATE HOUSE ON SUNDAY, FEB 2, THAT ZAMBIA WAS DISINCLINED TO WHITEWASH (HE USED THE WORD "CLEASE") GENERAL IDI AMIN BY GOING TO KAMPALA. HE MADE ALLUSIONS TO AMIN AS AFRICA'S "HITLER."
MWAANGA CONFIRMED THAT ZAMBIA HAD NO INTENTION
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OF LEADING INTERNATIONAL RESPECT TO AMIN BY BEING PRESENT.

3. I ASKED MWAANGA IF THE QUESTION OF DIALOGUE WITH SOUTHERN AFRICA MIGHT ARISE AT KAMPALA. MWAANGA DOUBTED IT WAS ON THE AGENDA, ALTHOUGH HE WAS AWARE OF ADVERSE COMMENTS ABOUT THE INITIATIVE OF THE FOUR BLACK AFRICAN PRESIDENTS TO THE EXCLUSION OF OTHERS. HE FELT THEIR GROUNDS FOR RESENTMENT WERE BASELESS, BECAUSE THESE FOUR PRESIDENTS WERE MERELY CARRYING OUT THE MANDATE OF THE LUSAKA MANIFESTO WHICH WAS FULLY AGREED TO BY THE OAU STATES. IF, HOWEVER, SOME OF THE OAU STATES QUESTIONED THE WAY IN WHICH THIS MANDATE WAS BEING CARRIED OUT, CONCEIVABLY IT COULD BE MADE A MATTER OF DISCUSSION AT KAMPALA.

4. MWAANGA DENIED THAT ZAIRE HAD ANY QUARREL WITH ZAMBIA OVER ITS ROLE IN THE DIALOGUE WITH THE WHITE REGIMES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. HE RECALLED THAT HE HAD FULLY BRIEFED PRESIDENT MOBUTU LAST NOV 14 AND HAD BROUGHT HIM UP TO DATE AGAIN DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO ZAIRE THE WEEKEND OF FEB 1 WHEN HE HAD DELIVERED A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT KAUNDA. MWAANGA INDICATED MOBUTU HAD "HIS HANDS FULL" WITH THE ANGOLAN PROBLEM AND APPEARED SATISFIED WITH THE WAY THE RHODESIAN SITUATION WAS BEING HANDLED BY OTHER AFRICAN STATES. MWAANGA REAFFIRMED THAT THERE ARE NO MAJOR DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ZAMBIA AND ZAIRE.

5. COMMENT: DESPITE MWAANGA'S DENIALS, IT IS AN OPEN SECRET THAT THERE ARE INDEED REAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ZAIRE AND ZAMBIA OVER PRESIDENT MOBUTU'S UNINHIBITED SUPPORT OF FNLA'S ROBERTO AND MPLA DISSIDENT CHIPENDA, HIS SUSPECT INTENTIONS RE CABINDA AND GENUINE BILATERAL DIFFERENCES OVER THE CRIMINAL ELEMENT AMONG ZAIROIS FLOATER IMMIGRANTS IN ZAMBIA. WE BELIEVE IT IS SAFE TO ASSUME THAT ZAMBIA'S INTENTION TO ABSENT ITSELF FROM KAMPALA MAY HAVE BEEN AN ELEMENT IN THE KAUNDA/MOBUTU MESSAGE WHICH MWAANGA DELIVERED.

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